

1994 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE

From January through December 1994 there was a total of 56 children under four years of age killed in traffic collisions. In 22 of the deaths, no safety seat was present; 4 were killed when a safety seat was available but not used; 8 were in incorrectly used safety seats; 8 were in adult safety belts; and only 11 were in safety seats that were correctly used. (In the other 3 fatalities, safety seats were not required or their use was unknown.)

In the collision summaries, this symbol (*) after the date indicates that the victim was Hispanic or had an Hispanic surname. 48% of the fatal victims (27) were in this category.

VICTIMS BY YEAR

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>INJURED</u>
1994	56	4,127
1993	48	4,357
1992	59	4,705
1991	70	4,793
1990	64	5,109
1989	43	5,102
1988	60	4,855
1987	66	4,792
1986	50	4,212
1985	53	4,050
1984	57	4,177
1983	60	4,273
1982	46	4,679
1981	58	4,716
1980	47	4,652

27360 CITATIONS (CHP ONLY)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1994	16,060
1993	18,797
1992	21,578
1991	24,161
1990	21,476
1989	18,420
1988	15,196
1987	15,473
1986	12,620
1985	14,593
1984	11,879
1983	6,315*

*(1983 CITES STARTED 4/1/83)

1994 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE

[The following is the format for the information contained in these reports.]

DATE TIME/CITY/COUNTY/. VICTIM. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.
RESTRAINT USE

JANUARY

- 02* 0015/Uninc./Kern/. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) was driving at a speed which was unsafe for conditions (fog) and rear-ended a vehicle which had been abandoned in a traffic lane. Child had just been taken out of the safety seat so that his mother could feed him.
SAFETY SEAT PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE
- 07 2351/Richmond/Contra Costa. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) who was under the influence of Methamphetamine, was making a left turn when the vehicle was struck by a second vehicle. Second vehicle was being operated at a high rate of speed and entered the intersection against a red light. Child was seated in the rear of the first vehicle. No safety seat present.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 31 0528/Fresno/Fresno. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver was executing a left turn at an intersection when a second vehicle, traveling at a high rate of speed, entered the intersection against the light and struck the first vehicle. No occupant restraint use by any occupants of first vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

FEBRUARY

- 11* 1300/Uninc./Madera. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) was driving in the number 2 lane of a freeway when a truck-tractor driving alongside drifted from the number 1 lane into her vehicle. The contact caused her to lose control of her vehicle which then left the roadway and struck a tree.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

FEBRUARY (Continued)

- 16* 1853/Fresno/Fresno. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) entered an intersection and was struck by a second vehicle which ran a red light. Child was in an adult lap belt and appeared initially to be uninjured. After exiting the vehicle while standing on the sidewalk with his grandmother he fainted and fell over backward striking his head. Child died of unknown causes which may or may not be related to the crash.

ADULT BELT

- 17 1822/Uninc./Solano. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother and aunt) for unknown reasons allowed her vehicle to drift across the center line and strike oncoming vehicle (semi truck-tractor) head-on. Impact killed driver, her two children and her three nephews. Child was a front seat passenger and was using an adult lap/shoulder safety belt. Two older children (aged 4 and 5) each weighed less than 40 pounds and should also have been riding in safety seats. It is unknown if any occupants of this vehicle could have survived if they had been properly restrained because of the massive impact.

ADULT BELT/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 20 2330/Inglewood/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (.16% BAC) crossed over center line and struck oncoming vehicle head-on. All occupants of second vehicle were properly restrained and avoided serious injury except the child who was riding in an infant seat designed to be used in a rear-facing position. Seat was forward facing and could not properly protect the child.

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 22* 2115/San Jose/Santa Clara. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver (.22% BAC) was being pursued by law enforcement vehicle. Driver lost control of his vehicle, crossed over center line and struck oncoming vehicle. Child in second vehicle was riding in adult lap/shoulder belt.

ADULT BELT/PREVENTABLE

MARCH

- 27 1605/Uninc./Solano. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) had stopped his vehicle because the “baby was crying” and unbuckled the safety seat and removed the child to comfort her. When the baby was calm, he replaced the child in the seat but failed to attach the seat to the vehicle with the safety belt. Later, while driving on the freeway, the father was putting “clip-on” tinted lenses over his prescription glasses and allowed his vehicle to drift into the center divider. He then lost control of the vehicle which crossed over all lanes of the freeway, slid off the shoulder and struck a tree.

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 02* 1550/Uninc./Lake. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother), under the influence of alcohol and Methamphetamine, lost control of her vehicle while driving 60-65 mph on a residential street. Vehicle left roadway and struck a tree.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 03 1200/Riverside/Riverside. TWO 2-YR-OLD FEMALES. Driver (father) stopped his vehicle in the middle of a freeway traffic lane because of a plastic bag in the lane. He then told his 14-year-old son to get out and retrieve the bag. While the son was doing this, a semi-rig and two other vehicles swerved around the stopped vehicle. The next vehicle was traveling too fast and could not avoid rear-ending the stopped vehicle. The impact spun the first vehicle around and ruptured the fuel tank causing an explosion and fire. The mother and two children sustained fatal injuries.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 09 1122/Modesto/Stanslaus. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver was inattentive and entered intersection against the red light. Second vehicle, proceeding with green light was struck by first vehicle. Child was a passenger in the second vehicle. Seat was not properly attached and child and her twin sister were both ejected from the vehicle.

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 20* 1340/Uninc./Fresno. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) drove through a stop sign and was struck by second vehicle. Child was riding unrestrained in the rear seat of the vehicle.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

MARCH (Continued)

- 25* 2355/Uninc./Shasta. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) fell asleep while driving a semi-truck. Vehicle left the roadway and overturned ejecting all occupants. Child was riding unrestrained in the sleeper-berth. Under California law children in this type of vehicle are not required to ride in child safety seats.
NOT REQUIRED/PREVENTABLE
- 27 1840/Uninc./Sacramento. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was DUI (0.18% BAC and a Methamphetamine level of 0.07 mg/l) and operating her vehicle at a high rate of speed (71 mph) on a river levee road. The vehicle entered a curve posted at 50 mph and the driver over-corrected and lost control. The vehicle slid off the roadway, proceeded down the river levee, became airborne and flipped, landing on its roof in the river. The vehicle floated for 5-10 seconds before sinking into 15-20 feet of water. All occupants were properly restrained during the crash. The two adults were able to free themselves from their safety belts and remove the child from the safety seat but then were unable to escape from the vehicle. All vehicle occupants drowned.
SAFETY SEAT
- 29* 0245/Uninc./Imperial. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver fell asleep and allowed vehicle to drift off roadway. Driver then awoke, over-corrected, and lost control of her vehicle. The vehicle went down an embankment and overturned into a canal. Child and driver drowned. Passenger managed to break a window and escape.
SAFETY SEAT

APRIL

- 01 1440/San Bernardino/San Bernardino. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle when the right rear tire blew out. Vehicle left the roadway and overturned, ejecting the child who was sleeping unrestrained in the rear of the station wagon.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 10 1550/Uninc./Riverside. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Had-been-drinking driver (child care provider) lost control of her vehicle which spun across the center line and was struck broadside by oncoming vehicle. The 3-year-old and an older child (both unrestrained) suffered fatal injuries from massive impact. It is unlikely that a safety seat would have prevented this death.
NO SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

APRIL (Continued)

- 23 1245/Uninc./Kern. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) had stopped his vehicle on the shoulder of the highway. As a second vehicle approached, the driver of the first vehicle attempted a U-turn directly in front of the second vehicle. The impact ejected the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 23 1820/Uninc./Calaveras. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver lost control of his vehicle in a curve, slid off the road and struck an embankment. Child was riding unrestrained in the center rear of the vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 26* 1540/Uninc./Riverside. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) entered intersection as second vehicle failed to stop for the stop sign. Second vehicle struck first vehicle ejecting unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 29* 1325/Bakersfield/Kern. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) had child in front seat buckled into the adult 3-point lap belt. (A child safety seat was in the trunk but the mother thought the child was old enough to use the adult belt.) Child began to squirm and wriggle out of the safety belt and this drew the driver's attention away from the road. Because of this inattention the driver lost control of her vehicle, which skidded and overturned, partially ejecting the child.
ADULT BELT/PREVENTABLE [SAFETY SEAT PRESENT BUT NOT USED]

MAY

- 03 1928/Bakersfield/Kern. 2-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver was operating her vehicle at a high rate of speed (50 - 60 mph) on a city street while carrying a total of 12 passengers in a standard sedan. Driver lost control of her vehicle and struck the side of a building. Child was riding on the lap of the right rear passenger.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 06 1635/Uninc./Butte. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle on a curve in the rain. Vehicle spun into oncoming vehicle. Child was riding in the right front seat buckled into an adult lap-shoulder belt with the shoulder portion placed behind her back.
ADULT BELT/PREVENTABLE

MAY (Continued)

- 18* 2018/Uninc./Kern. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) was operating a semi-truck-tractor at a high speed on a road which was wet from rain. Driver lost control of vehicle which skidded off the roadway and overturned. Child was riding in the sleeper cab and was ejected. Under California law children in this type of vehicle are not required to ride in child safety seats.
NOT REQUIRED/PREVENTABLE
- 26 1253/Brentwood/Contra Costa. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) was distracted and allowed his vehicle to move in front of an oncoming semi truck-tractor. Truck struck first vehicle broadside at the driver's door. Driver and adult passenger were wearing safety belts and survived. 1-month-old child was riding in a forward-facing safety seat in the center of the front seat. Lap belt had been wrapped several times around the safety seat before being buckled. A properly attached, rear-facing seat would probably have prevented this fatality.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 28* 1940/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (0.19% BAC) was racing a second vehicle when he rear-ended a vehicle which was stopped for a red light. Child was a left rear seat passenger in second vehicle and was unrestrained. A safety seat was present but not used.
PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE

JUNE

- 01 2054/Santa Clarita/Los Angeles. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. 15-year-old driver was speeding and lost control of her vehicle which struck two other vehicles. Child was an unrestrained passenger of this young driver. Main cause of crash was driver's inexperience.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 10 0800/Uninc./Lassen. 1-YR-OLD MALE AND 3-YEAR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) fell asleep and allowed his vehicle to drift into oncoming lanes. Driver then over-corrected, swerved to the right and back to the left — into the path of an oncoming truck. Infant was seated in a child safety seat which was not attached to a safety belt. Older child was sitting on his mother's lap.
PRESENT BUT NOT USED AND NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

JUNE (Continued)

- 13 0410/Uninc./Placer. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) of a van which contained no safety belts, allowed his vehicle to drift across the center line and into the path of an oncoming semi truck-tractor. Child was riding unrestrained in the rear of the van.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 15* 1523/Selma/Fresno. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) fell asleep and allowed his vehicle to drift into the center divider. Driver awoke and over-corrected causing the vehicle to swerve to the right, leave the roadway and overturn ejecting his passengers. 19-day-old infant was seated in a rear-facing child safety seat in the right front seat. Safety seat was properly attached with the adult belt and the straps to hold the child in the safety seat were also buckled. It appears that the child was placed on top of the buckled safety seat straps.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 19 1757/Beaumont/Riverside. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Father (0.16% BAC) was a passenger in a vehicle being operated by a DUI driver (0.18% BAC). Driver allowed his vehicle to drift into the rear of a parked vehicle. Child was riding on his father's lap with the adult lap-shoulder belt around both the child and his father.
ADULT BELT/PREVENTABLE

JULY

- 04* 1845/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Child was riding in his mother's arms in the cargo area of a pickup truck when it was struck in an intersection. Although there was a camper shell over the cargo area, the child was ejected and sustained fatal injuries when the vehicle rolled over him.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 11* 1025/Uninc./Los Angeles. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Speeding driver (63 mph) entered an intersection when the second vehicle began a left turn. Second vehicle was struck by first vehicle. Driver (mother) of second vehicle was driving without a license. Child was riding in the right rear of the vehicle and was buckled into an adult lap-shoulder belt.
ADULT BELT/PREVENTABLE

JULY (Continued)

- 22* 2003/Azusa/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver operating his vehicle at 65+ mph rear-ended a vehicle stopped at a stoplight. Because of the massive impact, the driver's seat back support failed and both the seat back and driver impacted the child who was seated in a properly attached safety seat.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

AUGUST

- 02 1430/Uninc./Placer. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver was transporting two children including the victim. Driver drifted over the center line (possibly due to distraction from passengers) and struck second vehicle head on. Impact of full size pickup truck into subcompact vehicle crushed the right side of the smaller vehicle and pushed the right door post into the right front passenger area where the child was seated in a properly attached safety seat.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 03* 2220/Lake Elsinore/Riverside. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was tired and fell asleep. Her vehicle drifted into the center median and overturned, ejecting the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 05* 1313/Pomona/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) for unknown reason allowed her vehicle to cross over into oncoming traffic and strike second vehicle head-on. Child was in a safety seat but it was improperly fastened to adult belt which allowed child to suffer fatal head injuries.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 22 0945/Uninc./Stanislaus. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) failed to stop completely at an intersection. Her vehicle was struck broadside by a second vehicle which entered the intersection legally. Child was seated at point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 24 1835/Riverside/Riverside. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver was traveling on a surface street at a high speed and was unable to stop when crossing arms came down at a railroad crossing. Vehicle skidded through the gates and into the path of an oncoming train. Train was traveling at 55 - 60 mph and struck the car broadside. Impact killed all four occupants including the child who was not in a safety seat.
NO SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

AUGUST (Continued)

- 24 2320/Uninc./San Bernardino. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver allowed vehicle to drift into the center median. She then over-corrected and vehicle went off right side of road, hit an embankment and overturned. Unrestrained child was ejected. Safety seat was in vehicle but not used.
PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE

SEPTEMBER

- 16* 2120/Uninc./San Diego. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was operating her vehicle at a high rate of speed (80 mph) and attempted to avoid an small animal on the road in front of her. Because of the abrupt movement of her steering wheel, she lost control of the vehicle which left the roadway and overturned. The child was lying unrestrained on the rear seat and was ejected.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 30* 2007/Sacramento/Sacramento. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Unlicensed driver (mother) pulled into the path of second vehicle. Child was wearing adult belt.
ADULT BELT/PREVENTABLE

OCTOBER

- 01* 0525/Uninc./San Bernardino. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI (.17) driver (father) was attempting to cross a highway and because of his intoxicated state, pulled in front of oncoming traffic. Child was at point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 03* 0030/Avenal/Kings. 3-YR-OLD MALE. DUI Driver (father) was attempting to light a cigarette when he lost control of his vehicle. When the driver over-corrected, the vehicle left the roadway and overturned. Child was riding unrestrained in the cargo area of the pickup truck which was covered by a camper shell.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 03 1420/Uninc./Sacramento. 1-YR-OLD MALE. For unknown reasons driver allowed his vehicle to drift into oncoming lanes and struck a semi-truck head-on. Child was at point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

OCTOBER (Continued)

- 03 1810/Uninc./Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver entered a 30 mph turn at 70 mph and was unable to stay in his lane. He struck an oncoming vehicle. Child was a passenger in the second vehicle and was at the point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 17* 1500/Uninc./Kern. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) was attempting to take an off-ramp at freeway speeds. Due to improper maintenance and repairs, the brakes failed to operate. Vehicle left the roadway and overturned, ejecting the child. Child was sitting on but not buckled into a properly attached safety seat.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 26* 2305/Uninc./Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) pulled in front of oncoming traffic and was struck from the rear. Child was riding in safety seat but was not restrained by the seat's straps.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

NOVEMBER

- 11 1210/Palmdale/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was focusing her attention on the child. While doing this her vehicle drifted off the roadway. Driver then attempted to recover and over-corrected, losing control. Vehicle left the roadway and overturned. Unrestrained child was ejected and the vehicle rolled on top of her.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 29* 1730/Uninc./Monterey. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver crossed over the center line at a high rate of speed and struck second vehicle head-on. Child was riding unrestrained.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

DECEMBER

- 07* 1239/Fullerton/Orange. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (grandmother) for unknown reason allowed her vehicle to drift to the right and strike a telephone pole. Child was at the point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

DECEMBER (Continued)

- 09 1907/Uninc./Kern. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver on the wrong side of the free-way struck second vehicle head-on. First vehicle's hood came through the right rear window of the second vehicle causing fatal head injuries to the child who was seated in the right rear.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 11* 0040/Commerce/Los Angeles. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver struck second vehicle which was disabled. Impact caused the second vehicle to explode and burn. Because of the fire, occupant restraint use for child is unknown.
UNKNOWN